



# VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



November 10, 2020

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer  
Minister Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Minister Selina Robin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Via Email [bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca), [adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca),  
[selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Dr. Henry, Ministers Dix and Robinson,

I write today on behalf of the Vancouver and District Labour Council, representing approximately 60,000 unionized workers in the City of Vancouver and surrounding municipalities.

First of all, let me say thank you for your excellent work so far in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. We are fortunate here in British Columbia to have people-centered leadership during this difficult time.

We recognize that right now, as we see COVID cases soar beyond 500 per day, we all need to re-double our efforts to flatten the curve and keep our families, coworkers, and communities safe. We will of course do our part by encouraging adherence to public health orders and guidelines and ensuring our work is always carried out safely and responsibly.

However, one area of ongoing concern for many of our delegates and affiliated union members is the lifting of the eviction ban earlier this year. For many tenants, this is an exceptionally vulnerable time. With evictions being permitted this Fall, we have heard of many tenants facing the loss of their housing because of the loss or reduction of their work, inadequate supports, or the desire of some landlords to increase rents. Around 15% of rental households are experiencing the burden of rent-debt related to the pandemic and have not been able to pay their full rents.

Eviction means having to find new housing and move during a time when we are being asked to minimize in-person contact. As we enter cold and flu season, we know that this will combine with rising COVID cases to greatly increase the number of people required to shelter-in-place and self-isolate. It is critical that people be able to do so in their homes, without fear of eviction.

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We are therefore calling for the reintroduction of the ban on evictions for non-payment of rent and any other reasons, and its extension at least through the duration of the Winter cold and flu season. We believe these are crucial steps to help reduce COVID-19 cases and ensure that BC residents do not lose their homes because of the pandemic.

Thank you.

Best Regards,



Stephen von Sychowski  
President, VDLC

cc: VDLC Executive Board

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